

FoodCorps New Jersey Service Site Descriptions

Below you will find detailed descriptions of all of the service sites located in this state. Each description includes details about the community where the service site is based, the overall work and mission of the organization, and what an incoming servicemember can expect to do on a day-to-day basis at this site. We hope this document will help you to best determine where you are most interested in serving!

AtlantiCare

Egg Harbor Township

Community Description

Service member would provide service to the Atlantic City community. Atlantic City is a diverse urban community. More information about Atlantic City demographics can be found here:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/atlanticcitynewjersey/PST045217>

Organization Description

AtlantiCare, the largest, non casino employer in southern NJ, has over 80 sites, 3 emergency rooms 2 hospitals, and has been caring for the community for over 100 years. The AtlantiCare Foundation supports several community programs, 2 of which support expanding access to healthy food (Growing Green AtlantiCare) and prioritizing health and wellness for schools (AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children).

Service Activities Description

Texas Avenue Elementary School: Nutrition education, professional development for staff, engaging students in the school garden, cafeteria taste tests.

Salvation Army Garden: Afterschool programming, engage youth in established pantry garden.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Garden knowledge, nutrition knowledge, cooking skills, public speaking comfort.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

New Brunswick Public Schools

New Brunswick

Community Description

New Brunswick Public School district is an urban school district. We are primarily 88% Hispanic, 10% African-American, and 2% other.

Organization Description

New Brunswick Public School district is an urban school district. We have approximately 10,200 students and 1,675 certified teachers and support staff.

Service Activities Description

New Brunswick Public School district is an urban school district. The NBPS service member will serve at two local schools. Programming includes in-class lessons, school garden support, taste test facilitation, and the super fun March Snackness competition. For staying power, the service member will work to engage the broader school district community by collaborating with the PTO, teachers, and the Wellness Council. The NBPS service member also works closely with many relevant food access organizations in New Brunswick.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Background in nutrition

-Has experience with children

-Bilingual (Spanish speaking)

-Experience helping lower income families make healthy food choices

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Required

Orange Public Schools

Orange

Community Description

The City of Orange Township has a population of over 30,000 people living in a 2.2 square mile area with very limited open green space. In the late 19th Century Orange was known as the hat-making capital of the world. But like many former manufacturing centers, the City's suffers from a challenged socio-economic environment. More than a fifth of the population lives below the poverty line and median household income is only about \$35,000. On the other hand, the

city is home to a growing number of people from countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, making Orange one of the most diverse communities in the state.

Organization Description

The Orange Public School District commits to provide a safe and caring environment where each student is expected to grow and succeed. We pledge to prepare all students with equitable opportunities for college and career readiness, leading to lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in a competitive global community. The district serves about 5,700 students attending 7 elementary schools, one 8-9 academy, one high school and three special focus programs. The district boasts a greenhouse at one elementary school and a community garden at another. The high school houses a hydroponic greenhouse. All three are incorporated into the district's science curriculum.

Service Activities Description

The Orange Public School District commits to provide a safe and caring environment where each student is expected to grow and succeed. The district boasts a greenhouse at one elementary school and a community garden at another, while the high school houses a hydroponic greenhouse. All three are incorporated into the district's science curriculum. The OPS service member serves primarily at Forrest Street School and Oakwood Avenue School. Here, the service member supports students, staff, and families in developing the greenhouse and school garden into an integral element of the school's science and health curriculums and into a strategic focus of pro-health community engagement activities.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

We believe the qualifications that are unique to our district include 1) the ability to spark interest in and meet the needs of a diverse population of students and staff; 2) the ability adjust to various cultures within the district and the various school and 3) the passion and knowledge for urban farming initiatives.

Helpful Languages: Spanish, French-Creole

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

**Philip's Education Partners - EcoSpaces
Education
Newark**

Community Description

Newark, NJ

With a population of around 300,000, Newark is the largest city (by population) in New Jersey. It is the county seat of Essex County and one of the nation's major air, shipping, and rail hubs. Located in the heart of New Jersey's Gateway Region, Newark is the second-largest city in the New York metropolitan area, approximately 8 miles (13 km) west of Manhattan. Its proximity allows for spending time in NYC and enjoying all it has to offer. Going west, there is access to shopping, outdoor activities, movies, restaurants, etc. Newark is headquarters to numerous corporations, such as Prudential Financial and PSEG. It is also home to several universities, such as Rutgers-Newark (including its law school), the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Seton Hall University's Law School. Among others, its cultural and sports venues include: the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the Prudential Center, and the Bears & Eagles Riverfront Baseball Stadium. Newark is divided into five geographical wards and contains neighborhoods ranging in character from bustling urban districts to quiet suburban enclaves. Newark's Branch Brook Park is the oldest county park in the United States and is home to the nation's largest collection of cherry blossom trees.

Paterson, NJ

In the 2013-2014 school year, Paterson had over 12,000 kindergarten through eighth grade students in schools that the NJ Department of Education assessed as priority and focus schools, or schools performing within the lowest 10% in the state. This means 65% of kindergarten through eighth grade students were attending schools that were unable to provide these students with the necessary resources to succeed (see chart below). In the 2012-2013 school year, third grade ELA (English Language Arts) school proficiency levels in Paterson were below the state average with approximately 55% of third graders performing below the state average of 66% proficiency. There is substantial demand for more high quality charter schools within Paterson. There are currently over 1,600 students on the waitlists for two of the four existing charter schools in Paterson and no CMOs have plans to expand and launch schools within Paterson in the near future.

We expect our student body to be approximately 90% students of color. In Paterson, 2014-2015 kindergarten enrollment data showed approximately 64% of students were of Hispanic descent and 24% were African-American. Based on the most recently available special education classification rates for ages 3-21 from 2013, we anticipate that approximately 14% of our students will have IEPs once we are fully enrolled. Within Paterson, 90% of students in this age range qualify for free or reduced price lunch and 19% are English Language Learners with 50% of Paterson's students speaking a primary language other than English and 37 different languages spoken by Paterson's children. We expect our student population to reflect these

demographics. Upon full enrollment, we plan to serve 495 students in grades pre-k through eighth.

In 2011, 53.5% of the population in Paterson was living in households with income levels below 200% of the federal poverty line (Poverty Benchmarks 2013, Legal Services of New Jersey). The current unemployment rate, 9.8%, far exceeds that of the state at 5.6%. In addition, Paterson's high school graduation rate, as of 2013, was 72%. We hope that by bringing our more than 25 years of providing a high quality educational experience that we can begin to shift each of these in a more positive direction over time.

Organization Description

Philip's Education Partners (Philip's Academy Charter Schools) currently serves approximately 750 students in grades PreK-8 on two campuses, Newark and Paterson, NJ. Utilizing unique learning environments, we seek to inspire students to embrace the highest principles of environmental and nutritional stewardship. The EcoSpaces Education Food Literacy Program's core mission is to teach health/wellness and sustainability in all grades through hands-on learning. Having a FoodCorps service member allows us to support a growing number of school gardens and increases the numbers of students, teachers, and families that benefit from them. It allows us to connect people and community organizations through food and healthy living. In conjunction with the family-style lunch program, our students plant, cultivate and harvest our rooftop garden and indoor growing systems. The garden boasts multiple beds, including those specific to grade level curricula. In addition, the garden acts as an outdoor learning center, which provides a memorable space for discussion and exploration of the environmental world while also insulating our gymnasium (which is directly below the garden) and reducing the energy requirements for heating and cooling. Philip's Academy's rooftop garden is a space in which classrooms can meet outdoors for class discussions, writing, making art, poetry, music, and movement in addition to gathering for meals as a community. Additionally, our online resource ecospacesed.org aims to reach educators, foodservice professionals, and families in order to educate and inspire an increase food literacy and healthy eating at school and in the home.

Located in Newark's Central Ward, Philip's Academy serves primarily African-American and Latino students (97%). Our students come from disadvantaged communities of Newark, East Orange, and Irvington, in which more than 45% of children under age 18 fall below the federal poverty line, about \$24,250 for a family of four. In 2015, Newark's high school graduation rate was 70%. In 2013 according to Advocates for Children of New Jersey, 71% of Newark's children lived in low-income households and 65% of adults in Newark had never enrolled in college. Many of the families exist in chaotic and stressful worlds where providing children with an exceptional academic experience is a difficult challenge.

Service Activities Description

The one PACS service member will support the ongoing initiatives around Food Literacy Education within the EcoSpaces Education Program at the school in Paterson, NJ. The new Philip's Academy Charter School in Paterson will be a major focus for the service member, who will support activities that include creating a new garden environment and developing the kitchen classroom and Dining Room as a Classroom platforms, as well as focusing on assisting with establishing relationships with community and strengthening food procurement plans in the Paterson School District. The two service members serving in the Newark Public School District, with Mount Vernon Elementary School and Luis Munoz School of Social Justice, will work on introducing and implementing the EcoSpaces model in these school communities.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Some classroom management experience is always good. Additionally, we would prefer our service member to have knowledge of gardening and agriculture as well as some basic nutrition knowledge and cooking skills.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County Woodstown

Community Description

The service member will be serving in the Penns Grove/Carney Point area. This is an area of high need with the school district at 71.5% free/reduced and roughly 2,500 people receiving SNAP benefits (Penns Grove is #2 in total recipients while Carneys Point is #4 in the county).

Organization Description

The Department of Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS), a part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, promotes health and wellness through education, research and collaboration with outreach in food, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles.

FCHS faculty and staff work in your neighborhood to promote healthy families, schools and communities. Through leadership, collaborative efforts, research, and science-based education, we foster a culture of health and wellness for New Jersey residents of all ages.

Service Activities Description

The service member will be serving Field Street School, grades 1-3 with a total population of 530 students at 79.06% free/reduced. They will also be serving Paul W Carleton, grades 4-5 with a total population of 332 students at 76.81% free/reduced, which is in the same feeder pattern. The service member will build upon the changes made in Field Street School by a previous FoodCorps service member while beginning to engage Paul W Carleton school by introducing PSE change around the school. This may take the form of building garden beds, doing in class lessons and taste tests, working with the food service manager to introduce new, healthier options, etc.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Knowledge/interest in food systems

Knowledge/interest in vegetable gardening

Knowledge in food preparations and cooking

Must be a self-motivated and outspoken

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Required

Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Gloucester County Clarksboro

Community Description

Gloucester County is unique in that it is an outstanding agricultural, industrial, and residential area. Farming in all of its phases is highly established and developed. Hand in hand with agriculture, the county possesses some of the largest industries of the east. Such a combination of agriculture and industry, together with the location of the county in the metropolitan area of Philadelphia, was bound to result in thriving residential communities. Dotted with woods and beautiful lakes, traversed by beautiful streams, Old Gloucester County possesses a historical background that places it foremost in our country's history. Our service member will live in a

rural-turning-suburban area near Philadelphia, Atlantic City, and Delaware. You will be in close proximity to Rowan University, shopping/dining/entertainment opportunities, fitness opportunities and many, many local farms, farm markets, and farm stands. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension helps the diverse population of New Jersey adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve their lives and communities through an educational process that uses science-based knowledge. Through science-based educational programs, Rutgers Cooperative Extension truly enhances the quality of life for residents of New Jersey and brings the wealth of knowledge of the state university to local communities. The Department of Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS), the community-based nutrition, health promotion, and family wellness outreach component of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, provides workshops and online resources to educate and support families, worksites, schools, and communities to create healthier lifestyles. Healthy Lifestyles FCHS programming provides access to and involvement in a variety of learning opportunities that promote consistent messages about the importance of healthy eating in concert with daily physical activity where consumers live, work, and play. Our programs are designed to be appropriate for worksite wellness, early childcare/ pre-school, youth, adults, and older adults.

Service Activities Description

The RCEG service member will serve in two schools, collaborating with the school community to promote healthy eating of fruits and vegetables, facilitate garden projects, support a grant-funded project identifying farm-to-school opportunities with food service staff, and train school faculty/staff on techniques for curricular integration of garden and food. The service member will also work with Family & Community Health Sciences to manage an Edible Education networking group of educators from Salem and Gloucester Counties.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

Edible education is key to our outreach. Service member must like to cook and engage with schools/students in creating foods that utilize crops from the garden. In winter months, we purchase foods to use in lessons.

Service member must be organized and plan lessons in advance in consultation with FCHS and schools so we have a defined, developed outreach outline. (Remember though...things change in schools, so you'll need to be flexible!)

We LOVE creativity! We encourage service members to identify a creative project -- print, web, photos, video, etc. -- that they'd like to work on and "create" to use with schools during their service year...and also leave with us for future service members and FCHS staff to use.

Service member should be comfortable networking with schools and personnel to facilitate cross-curricular use of gardens and food in classroom education.

Helpful Languages:

Service Members Need Car? Required

Coopers Ferry Partnership Camden

Community Description

The city of Camden is the county seat of Camden County, New Jersey. Camden was originally incorporated as a city in 1828. Once a thriving center for manufacturing and industry, Camden, like most American cities, suffered a decline in the 20th century, losing both major employers and population. Currently, Campbell Soup Company and L-3 Communications (formerly Lockheed Martin) are among the city's largest employers. The University District, adjacent to the downtown, is home to Camden County College, Rowan University, Rutgers-Camden University, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, and the Coriell Institute for Medical Research. While the city's history is noted for its challenges, its future is marked by the commitment of its community, business owners, and civic leaders to a brighter future. Camden's economic base is strengthened by its ever-increasing number of both large and small businesses. The arts community continues to grow with the addition of a City Symphony and area art shows. Parks, trails, and greenways are currently under renovation and creation, increasing the recreational opportunities within city borders. Communities are working together to redevelop their neighborhoods. Federal and state funds are being utilized to repair infrastructure, utilities, streets, and homes. A car is required for service at this site.

Organization Description

Get healthy Camden is focused on improving health and health outcomes of the City of Camden by creating a culture of health. Since 2010, this program, formerly named New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids-Camden, was led by the YMCA of Burlington & Camden Counties and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey until March 2016. Cooper's

Ferry Partnership is now serving as the backbone of Get Healthy Camden. Our partner, Campbell Soup Company's Healthy Communities Initiative, has a goal to reduce childhood obesity and hunger by 50% in the city of Camden with core focus areas - Food Access, Physical Activity/Access, Nutrition Education, and Public Will - to drive strategy, engagement, and investment. The initiative's common agenda is to improve the health of young people in Campbell hometown communities. Together, we are working with schools, organizations, and the local government to reduce childhood obesity and hunger through various strategies.

Service Activities Description

As part of the Campbell Healthy Communities Initiative for 2017, the following schools will be participating and receiving some level of programming from our service member. Next year, our service member will be assigned office space at KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy (KIPP) which is also home to one of Center for Family Services (CFS) locations. The majority of the service member's time will be at KIPP and CFS providing classroom and cafeteria programming and technical garden assistance in collaboration with other local school food organizations.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

- Familiarity with Camden, NJ and/or any other 'at-risk' urban city.
- Basic class management experience with urban city students.
- Knowledge about social change/systems change/policy and environmental change

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Required

Greater Newark Conservancy

Newark

Community Description

Newark, NJ is the state's largest city, located just 10 miles west of New York City. Newark is an urban environment with a sizable low to moderate income population. Newark is home to roughly 60,000 university students, and there are about 40,000 students in its public school system. Newark has some vibrant neighborhoods, such as Forest Hill and the Ironbound District, and is home to the largest collection of cherry blossom trees in the nation with over 4,000 trees. The city is undergoing rapid change with a return to locally controlled schools (after 22 years of state control), and fast-moving business and residential development.

Organization Description

For 30 years Greater Newark Conservancy has promoted environmental stewardship to improve the quality of life of Greater Newark's urban communities. We work in and out of schools offering environmental, garden-based and food-focused education. We facilitate access to fresh, locally-grown produce from our two urban farms through our youth farmstand. We enable community members to grow their own food through our Plot-It-Fresh program.

Service Activities Description

Hawthorne Elementary (preK-8) located adjacent to our Hawthorne Avenue Farm is a primary location for service. The school may have a dedicated classroom for Farm to School activities and there is a designated school garden area with a tool shed and tools. Grade levels for in-class lessons are determined in consultation with school administration. Currently one day per week is dedicated to in-class lessons. One day is used for lunchroom presence, modelling and tastings.

Harriet Tubman Elementary (preK-6) has a school garden across the street with a full outdoor classroom, beds, and tool shed. In-class lessons work with 3rd and 4th grade students. The service member works with an afterschool program using the Sprout Scouts curriculum. A second day in the school is spent on healthy school fundraisers, parent engagement events, lunchroom modeling, and taste tests. Service member convenes a nutrition advisory committee meeting monthly.

Additionally the service member supports some Conservancy community education, outreach, and engagement activities such as participating in discussions with school district food service personnel, leading portions of our school garden workshop series, and demonstrating food-prep techniques in our teaching kitchen.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

The most important characteristics for work at this site are flexibility, tenacity, and good humor. Organizational skills, especially community organizing, project management, and the ability to initiate, pursue, and maintain partnerships with individuals and organizations is particularly helpful.

Helpful Languages: Spanish, Portuguese

Service Members Need Car? Helpful

United Way of Passaic County

Paterson

Community Description

The UWPC seeks to address the social determinants of health in the southern area of Passaic County, including Paterson, Passaic City, Clifton, Haledon, and Prospect Park. It is the most urbanized portion of Passaic County and represents more than 52 ethnic groups. As of 2016, more than 500,000 people (508,856) lived in Passaic County, 62% of County residents (508,356 people) reside in the urban southern portion of the county. Southern Passaic County has a diverse population representing many ethnic backgrounds and cultures.

Children and residents of Passaic County's urban centers may experience poverty disproportionately. One in four (26%) Passaic County children are considered to be living in poverty, however there is variation by race and ethnicity. The cities of Paterson and Passaic account for 78% of the County's total poverty, with 27% of Paterson residents and 29% of Passaic residents living below the poverty level.

Organization Description

United Way of Passaic County (UWPC) is a community based non-profit with a 75 year history of serving Passaic County. It is the mission of UWPC 'to improve the lives of people in Passaic County by mobilizing the caring power of our community.' To fulfill this mission UWPC functions as a community impact organization that is guided by the values of collaborative, community inclusion and volunteerism to convene with stakeholders to create a positive impact. UWPC works to address needs in the areas of Health, Income and Education.

Service Activities Description

The UWPC seeks to prevent chronic disease and improve health by encouraging healthy behaviors among children and families through partnerships with Paterson Public Schools # 8 and #17, the Paterson Department of Food Services and the national FoodCorps program. Food insecurity and obesity are significant challenges affecting families in Passaic County NJ.

The UWPC's vision of success would be the installation of a garden at Paterson School #8 and School #17. The garden installations would involve parents, children, school staff and local businesses. The United Way FoodCorps Service Member will then help students and staff plant the school garden with fresh produce that will grow and be used in taste tests and cooking demonstrations at school in the late Spring and early Fall. In addition, the FoodCorps Service Member will implement biweekly cooking demonstrations/taste tests at each school, involving students, staff, and parents. It is expected that throughout the school year in total 400 students, staff members and parents will participant in nutrition education, food preparation

lessons and fruit and vegetable tasting opportunities. In addition, 100 unduplicated parents/guardians would participate in classroom instruction and community events such as Field Days and Harvest Celebrations.

Skills, Interest, Knowledge Preferences

FoodCorps Service member needs to be a "self-starter" and be able to work independently and manage his/her schedule, work plan, and daily tasks. The FoodCorps Service Member needs to have confidence in engaging school staff and administrators and working with a low-income population. Additionally, he/she needs at least conversational Spanish and should have access to a car.

Helpful Languages: Spanish

Service Members Need Car? Required